Selection of Delta Rocket for laaach-in of Insat-ID

*94. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the comparative offers of commercial satellite launch facilities being offered by the USA, the Soviet Union, China and the European Economic Community, in terms of cost, time-schedule, reliability and insurance facilities; etc.;

(b) what are the reasons for selection of McDonnell Dougla-, Delta rocket to launch our INSAT-ID satellite; and

(c) whether this decision in favour of McDonnell Douglas would involve any technology transfer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER, OP STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) INSAT-ID was originally scheduled to have been launched in the 'ate 1988-early 1989 period by the NASA Space Shuttle to replace INSAT-IB, whose End-of-Life (EOL) is predicted for end -~ 1989, plus/minus 6 months. The commercial Delta 4925 launch opportunity was the only practicable timely launch opportunity that was available for INSAT-ID for the launch in March 1989 time period. Through special efforts the launch was obtained, negotiated and finalised with McDonnell Douglas Corporation of USA. Consequent upon the suspension of Space Shuttle flights following 'Challenger' accident of January, 1986, though INSAT-ID was maintained on the curtailed list of foreign commercial payloads retained on the Space Shuttle manifest, a timely space shuttle launch (i. e. before the predicted End-of-Life of IN SAT—IB) was not feasible. In the same time frame of mid-19891 the European Launch Vehicle Ariane for launch of INSAT-ID was also not available. Delta Launch Vehicles have a long history of successful flights since their inception in the 60s.

(c) No, Sir.

Hardship faced by Indian$_s$ going *to* U. K. to join family members

*95. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state. -

(a) whether discussions were held or are proposed to be held with the U. K. Immigration authorities t_0 mitigate the hardships being caused to Indian citizens wishing to go to the U. K. and join their family members already settled in the U. K.;

(b) if so, details of the same and the results achieved;

(c) whether th$_e$ present U. K. Immigration laws are creating difficulties for U. K. citizens of Indian origin in marrying Indian citizens; and

(d) if so, the steps beings taken to solve such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Th$_e$ difficulties experienced by Indiaa spouses and dependents in obtaining visas expeditiously to join their relatives in U. K. have been repeatedly taken up with the U. K. authorities.

(b) to (d) The difficulties relate to the application of the "primary purpose" rule contained in the U. K. Immigration Act as well as the long delay in obtaining visas. These matters were recently discussed with U. K. Minister of State in ihe Home Office Mr. Timothy Renton during his visit to India in September 1987. The U. K. authorities are aware of InJia's point of view 'and have affirmed that a large number of spouses and dependents have been granted visas expeditiously. With the introduction of the new visa system and streamlining of procedures, they are hopefuj thai the waiting period would be further reduced.